Handicapped Persons Benefited Under IRDP

4905. SHRI SUDHIR GIRI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have assessed the number of physically handicapped persons in the country; and

(b) the provision made for benefit of the physically handicapped persons and the number of such persons benefited under Integrated Rural Development Programme during the year 1989,1990 and upto July,1991?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI UTTAMBHAI H. PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir. During the Integration (NSSO) conducted a country wide sample survey of the disabled persons to arrive at reasonably accurate estimates of the incidence and prevalence of disability in the country. As per the sample survey, about 1.8 per cent of the population of India, totalling nearly 12 million people were estimated to be suffering from one or more physical handicaps in the areas of locomotion, visual, speech and hearing handicaps. effluence of disability was more in the rural areas (81%).

(b) Under the Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), 3 per cent benefits are earmarked for the physically handicapped. Further, the handicapped are entitled to 50% subsidy subject to maximum of Rs. 5000. The coverage of physically handicapped during the last three years under IRDP are as under:-

Years	*Nos.*
1989-90	9014
1990-91	9652
1991-92	469

(till July, Provisional*)

*-Pertain to reports received from a few States only.

Radio Station at Osmanabad of Maharashtra

4906. SHRI ARVIND TULSHIRAM KAMBLE: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made in the construction of the building of Radio Station, Osmanabad; and

(b) the time by which the Radio Station is likely to be commissioned?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS): (a) and (b). The Civil works for construction of the building have commenced and, as per present indications, the Station is envisaged to be technically ready during 1991-92.

Dialogue on Industrial Policy

4907. PROF. K. V. THOMAS: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the major Central Trade Unions have requested the Government to have a dialogue on the new Industrial Policy; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI P.K. THUNGON): (a) and (b). The Union Finance